



Perception of causes, consequences and solutions to global warming among school children in Delhi

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Abstract:

Background: Global warming has emerged as one of the most important environmental issues ever to confront humanity having wide health & environmental implications. Awareness especially among children and youth is necessary to combat this challenge. **Objectives:** To study the perceptions of school students with regard to climate change, its potential health & environmental impacts and their behaviour towards tackling the issue. **Setting and Design:** This observational study was conducted in a government boys school in rural Delhi. **Material and Method:** All students of classes 9th, 10th and 11th who were willing to participate were included in the study. A self-administered, semi-structured questionnaire was used and responses were evaluated. **Statistical Analysis Used:** Proportions, percentages and chi-square test. **Results:** In all, 290 students participated in the study. Majority (78.9%) had heard about global warming and most students correctly attributed it to decreasing green cover (57.6%) and rising pollution (53.1%). Majority were aware of the increased chances of epistaxis but only some knew of its other health implications. Majority (96.5%) felt the need to take action and suggested increasing the green cover as a possible solution (85.1%). However, there were gaps in knowledge of students and some misconceptions were also observed. Further, knowledge did not necessarily translate into students' actions. Eleventh graders were better informed regarding global warming than lower two grades. **Conclusion:** It is imperative to include the issue of global warming at all levels in school curriculum with emphasis on its health impacts and focusing on early years of schooling.

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Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

Other Communication Audience: School Children

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Rural

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Asia

Asian Region/Country: India

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified